

CURRICULUM DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

WIMBA SESSION AUGUST 20, 2008 USOE, BOARD ROOMS

This meeting is archived and available to view online. The link is provided at: <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/directors/>. It is under the “Governors’ Blue Ribbon Panel on Assessment.” Scroll down to the “WIMBA” meeting.

WELCOME:

Lynne welcomed all to the meeting.

- Meeting on October 7, 2008 at Sheraton in Salt Lake City (150 W 500 South)
- Future meetings will be face-to-face and online
- Introduction of:
 - Jeff Ojeda as Minority Achievement Specialist
 - Moya Kessig as Concurrent Enrollment / Advanced Placement / International Baccalaureate / Gifted and Talented Specialist
 - Dr. Reed Spencer as the Elementary Language Arts Specialist
- Brief discussion of legislative initiatives to follow Superintendent Brenda Hales’ presentation

PRESENTATION:

Brenda Hales reviewed background on the history of the panel. Governor Huntsman had asked Superintendent Harrington to chair a panel on assessment and had promised to visit every district in the state. In talking to his constituents, they felt there were too many assessments for students. A panel of 30+ members was formed representing a broad spectrum including parents, legislators, teachers, principals, representatives from higher education, CMAC, and etc.

This panel developed tentative recommendations suggesting sweeping changes to the assessments given in the elementary and secondary grades.

Please see the Superintendent’s power point and online presentations for highlights and details (Links are online at the Curriculum Directors’ web page.)

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Please send any comments and/or questions to Superintendent Hales via Vicky Smith. (vicky.smith@schools.utah.gov). (Noted times approximate WIMBA time stamps.)

1. (Brenda Jackson) (20:55)
Is NWEA a K-12 assessment?
Brenda: The State has not selected NWEA as the computer-adapted test at this time. Sevier has been using NWEA. The science classes, for example, go through Biology and Geometry. Some struggling students may still be taking these courses as a high school Junior or Senior.
2. (Shauna South) (22:55)
What is the composition of the panel and where has this been presented?
Brenda: Names of members are on USOE’s web-site. This has been presented 15 times including regional meetings throughout the state, Ogden, Provo, Granite District, Jordan District Office, Price, Cedar City, Assessment Directors, Special Ed Directors, CMAC, and Iron County. There has been a short timeline for public hearings and getting information back to the governor.

3. (Lesley McLaughlin – Salt Lake City School District) (24:55)
It seems there would be a lot more testing and the issue of using computer labs is a huge concern. Computer Lab time is in high-demand.
Brenda: If this takes a lot more time, would it be a deal-breaker for you?
Lesley: Yes, it would be a deal breaker.
Brenda: Do you feel you have sufficient technology to accomplish this as proposed?
Lesley: We need sufficient funding. We need the legislature to allocate for funding.
Patty Brown (Davis) Why is there more testing using computer labs? It takes more time...
Patty Norman (Davis): What will happen to the state assessment?
Are the standards based on the state curriculum?
What happens to the state core?
4. (Kari – Jordan) (30:55)
This sounds like the greatest thing since sliced bread. However, all this testing cannot be accomplished in the given timeline. I am hesitant about the scope of work to be done given the effort and time that went towards developing the core curriculum. It will not work because it is too much to ask for at this time.
5. (Shauna South) (32:55)
Will the student still get a diploma if they don't pass the test?
Brenda: With exception of special education students, no, the student would not get a diploma. It would be important to know your feelings about that.
(Shauna South) What does that do to the Core Curriculum?
What would happen to those students who don't get a diploma?
Brenda: To clarify for you, ELL, 504 children, under this system would not receive a diploma.
6. (Jill Snyder – Davis District) (36:31)
We need to look at CRT's first. They are high-stakes with NCLB. Look at adequate yearly progress, Title I schools, high turnover, teachers are overworked. Look at cut scores. Cut scores are constantly moving with many variables affecting those scores. Questions don't always address the core standards. Answers are sometimes inaccurate. Look at where the frustration is coming from. Look where our teachers and students are.
Brenda: (38:31) You're saying we need to test what children need to learn. Test items need to test the core. This is a big issue for teachers. Panel must not rate teachers solely on test-score outcome. Are we doing what needs to be done? Whatever steps are taken needs to be in the best interest of children.
7. (Lesley McLaughlin) (40:31)
I am concerned about non-college bound students. Those who want to get a trade, etc. We are here to educate all children.
Brenda: You are opposed to doing AccuPlacer, then, as part of the proposal.
If the ACT was given, but optional, and state-funded, how would you feel about that?
(Lesley) Not opposed to it. Would be opposed if it meant we had to give up something else.
Brenda: Where does changing the assessment system fit on your priority list?
8. (?) (42:31)
What does NCLB think of the proposal?
Brenda: Discussions are ongoing. Is it important to the group that this be approved so as not to affect NCLB funding? Group: Yes
9. (Patty Brown) (44:31)
When the information is received and comments given, how are they going to analyze and utilize this information?
Brenda: (46:31) The panel will receive comments from all the meetings; Judy Park has been compiling a summary regarding technology, the system as a whole, emails, etc. Panel members will be given all the information with opportunity for discussion. The panel can then decide to go forward with existing recommendations, make changes, decide it is too early to make a recommendation, or can accept parts. Recommendations will then be given to the Governor. The

Governor then has options. He can accept, decline, decide on funding as part of the budget for next year, and on. He will probably comment in November or December. Then it will go to 2009 legislative session where they can accept, accept parts, and etc.

LEGISLATIVE UP-DATE (50:31)

1. **USTAR:** Velma Itamura and Diana Suddreth (52:05)
The purpose of USTAR is to attract and retain mathematics and science teachers through extended contracts.
Procedures were outlined by legislative session. Applications have been reviewed.
2. **FAMILY LITERACY CENTER:** Gerolynn Hargrove
There is a \$5M legislative allocation in ongoing and start-up funds. These are formula funds as opposed to competitive funds. Every district and charter may receive funding by submitting an application. Panel reviewed applications. Districts and charters are to be commended on their work. Letters will be sent stating the allocation. Funds will be released in October.
3. **UPSTART:** Reed Spencer (56:40)
This is aimed at providing a web-based tutorial for preschool students. We will be looking at vendors. More information will be forthcoming.
4. **K-3 READING IMPROVEMENT YEAR-END REPORT:** Reed Spencer
Annual reports are due September 22. The language on 'grade-level' needs to be clarified regarding the cut between the 3rd and 4th stanine. It needs to be at or above the 4th stanine to be considered at grade level. See email for corrected forms.
5. **OEK YEAR-END REPORT:** Reed Spencer (59:54)
Annual reports were due August 10. Please contact Reed asap if you have not filed your forms. The information these reports provide becomes critical to continue receiving funding. WestEd would like as much information as possible from Kindergarten teachers. Any and all K teachers are asked to complete an online survey. The link was sent to districts on August 21, 2008.
6. **ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM (GT, AP, IB):** Brenda Burrell (1:01:08)
(Lost connection to 1:04:06)
Gifted and Talented Coordinators meeting is September 4 at 9:30 in the Salt Lake City School District. Applications are due this fall.
Advanced Placement will proceed as normal. The Fall Counselors' Workshop is scheduled for September 18 at the Salt Lake Center for Science Education from 8-12. No cost to attend.
The College Board Forum will be held November 5-8 in Houston, Texas. This will address what is going on around the nation.
IB new board rule, 277-710, defines the law related to new funding. Emails will follow listing IB schools in Utah. If you are not on the list, respond immediately as funds are based on this list.
7. **HIGH-ABILITY INITIATIVE:** Brenda Burrell (1:08:06)
Applications will be reviewed and the host district will be selected.
Matching distribution will be sent in September. This is a different source of money than Gifted and Talented money. There is an application and selection process. According to SB2, this will involve internet-based resource centers, endorsements, professional learning communities with video conferencing capabilities. Contact Moya Kessig for further information.
8. **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:** Lynne Greenwood (1:10:06)
SB2. USOE process will not change. Legislation requires vendors to have an independent review and post that evaluation. The independent review lists the percentage of alignment to Utah Core Curriculum.
9. **BEVERLY TAYLOR SORENSON ELEMENTARY ARTS PROGRAM:** Carol Ann Goodson (1:11:32)
SB2: Funding has been approved for 22 districts and 56 schools.
There are 21 confirmed hires. Contact Carol Ann for hiring information.

The Arts Council has a new manager, Janet Wolf, who sees this as a true partnership, including, among others, USOE, the Utah Arts Council, higher education, and etc. Funds totaling more than \$3M will be received in September.

Next steps: regional training for principals, specialists, etc., in September. Please see calendar on the web.

10. **ELL TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT:** Gerolynn Hargrove

Legislative action appropriated \$3M for software. The RFP will be released shortly for vendor bid.

11. **CURRICULUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS:** Patty Hunt

http://www.schools.utah.gov/online/webcalendar.pl?Op=ShowIt&CalendarName=Curriculum_Calendar

Calendar of Events is a work in progress and shows USOE curriculum meetings across all content areas.

12. **LEAs WHO RECEIVE USOE FUNDING SUPPORT NEED TO RETURN THEIR REPORT OF IN-SERVICE FOR 2007-2008, ASAP:**

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/main/forms/html>

Please return in-service reports by October 1. These reports became critical for requesting funding from the legislature.

13. **QUESTIONS**

14. **OTHER**

UASCD October 1, 2

Next Curriculum Directors' meeting is October 7 at the Sheraton Hotel in Salt Lake City. The address is 150 W 500 South.